

EMSA INCREASES SERVICE TO BIXBY WITH DEDICATED AMBULANCE

The dedicated unit is the first phase in a master plan to provide a permanent site for EMSA services in the growing suburb

TULSA, Okla. (April 23, 2012) -- Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) will announce plans at the Bixby City Council tonight to provide a dedicated ambulance to the growing suburb during peak hours. The decision comes with EMSA's constant monitoring of the growth of its service areas in a proactive effort to ensure residents continue to receive premier quality care.

"EMSA keeps detailed records on call volume and transports and monitors them regularly for trends," said Duffy McAnallen, director of operations, EMSA. "In addition to our own records, we monitor changes in our service areas to identify and pre-empt any future issues that could impede us from providing the best service possible or jeopardize our ability to save lives."

The dedicated unit begins service on Monday, April 23, 2012, running from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and stationed in downtown Bixby. The designated unit also provides downtown Bixby with an additional Safe Place, a program partnered by Youth Services of Tulsa and the National Safe Place Program to help young people get out of dangerous, threatening or vulnerable situations.

"The U.S. Census shows Bixby has seen tremendous growth over the past 10 years with a nearly 60 percent increase in residents," said McAnallen. "Residential growth like that leads to higher call volumes and transport needs, but can also mean greater traffic congestion and difficulty getting to patients. We want to work with the city to make sure our services are always within easy access. Seconds count in this business."

Bixby's population has grown from 13,000 in 2000 to nearly 21,000 in 2010 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. EMSA's future plans include having two units based in Bixby with crews reporting to a Bixby site to begin and end their shifts.

"We appreciate how our business partner, EMSA, is taking proactive measures to ensure the continued availability of quality ambulance service within our rapidly growing community," said Bixby City Manager Doug Enevoldsen. "Combined with our professional first responder services provided by our fire department, it makes for a winning combination for our citizens."

Each of EMSA's 45 eastern division ambulances currently service Tulsa, Bixby, Jenks and Sand Springs.

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